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worth doing. "The single attempt is to discover from Tennyson's use of Scripture the successive and orderly stages of his artistic and poetic development. Here is a poet who used biblical phrases and images in one way in his earliest lines, who used them in another way in subsequent poems; and in still other ways in productions that were later and later yet. If the following pages have any new value it lies in exhibiting the orderly development and progress of a great poet's genius by showing that progress and development as seen in the successive stages of his artistic use of the English Bible. . . . Seen as a whole it is a bird's-eye view of the total landscape of a great artist's far-stretching career." The study is of interest not only in the light it throws on Tennyson's career, but in the conception it gives of the religious development of his age. Let us have more such dissertations from our budding doctors of philosophy.

PAST AND PRESENT. By Thomas Carlyle. With an Introduction and Notes by Edwin Mims, Professor of English, Vanderbilt University. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1918.

Among the recent editions of the Modern Student's Library, an excellent series of English classics sponsored by the old-established house of Scribner, is a new edition of Carlyle's *Past and Present*. The book well measures up to the test set for the series, that every volume shall be recognized as essential to a liberal education and shall tend to infuse a love for true literature and an appreciation of the qualities which cause it to endure. The editors of the several volumes have been carefully selected with a view to their peculiar fitness for their tasks. The editor of this political masterpiece of Carlyle, Dr. Edwin Mims of Vanderbilt University, was chosen with special propriety, because of his familiarity with the social and economic questions which caused the book to be written. He is so well known in the realm of American scholarship that it is sufficient to say that his Carlyle is one of his best pieces of editorial work.

Though written in 1843, *Past and Present* is perhaps the most timely and forward-looking essay of the Seer of Chelsea. It reads, indeed, like a contemporary treatise on social and industrial problems. Its message for the present day, for example, is

far more significant than that of Ruskin's political writings. The author, as usual, shouts at the reader from the printed page with uncouth, sprawling sentences that often stand topsy-turvy on their heads to attract attention. Like Ibsen, he was determined to be heard. But aside from its grotesque, volcanic style, *Past and Present* shows a prophetic insight into the social forces which wrought an industrial revolution in England and which can be understood better to-day in the light of subsequent events than they were by the early Victorians. Of the gaints of that age Carlyle alone read aright the progress of the Time-Spirit.

Dr. Mims shows in his illuminating introduction how democracy and freedom were then as now the watchwords of both liberals and progressives. Carlyle declared that "Liberty needs new definitions" from age to age, and our President has given voice in his world-shaking speeches to this new ideal of individual, national, and international freedom. Some of the Scotchman's ideas of the efficient state and the moral equivalent of war have been paralleled in the writings of Wells and James. *Past and Present* clearly forecasts the socialistic state and sets forth the compromise between "inevitable Democracy and indispensable sovereignty" as the "highest question hitherto propounded to mankind."

The book was not understood in its day for reasons which the editor makes clear. The author not only did not speak literally or figuratively the language of that utilitarian and conservative age, but was opposed by the social democratic champions on one extreme and by the spokesmen of the old order in Church and State on the other. "Carlyle's attack upon liberty," says Dr. Mims, "considered as a negative individualism, unrestricted and unlimited, is now justified in the increasing insistence upon industrial liberty as a necessary element and upon social duties as of equal importance with the rights of the individual." The present war with its rapid and drastic changes, as seen in the government handling of the prohibition problem, strikes, minimum wage, social vice, the military draft, food laws, management of public utilities, fuel regulation, and the whole system of taxation, has struck at the root of many of the evils denounced by the

plain-spoken Scotch philosopher, who boldly set himself to solving the Sphinx riddle of the world.

Bentham and his school had maintained the dangerous doctrine that the happiness of mankind depends upon "mere political arrangements," guided entirely by selfish interests; government a taxing machine to the discontented, a machine for securing property, to the contented. Carlyle set his face like a flint against this hard, mechanical theory of society, which had much in common with the present Prussian idea, and opposed to it a deep spiritual view of man's relationship to himself, his fellow-men, and the State. *Past and Present* presents this idea of a real democracy, a brotherhood of men, dependent for its driving force upon "Dynamics, which has to do with the inward, primary power of man."

The book was written as a true seer's commentary on an age of superficial, makeshift reforms, which did not reach or heal the deeper ulcers of the body politic. Carlyle feared, indeed, that England would suffer a second edition of the French Revolution, "truth clad in hell-fire," "for there is nowhere any tie remaining among men." *Past and Present* should be read by thoughtful minds to-day in the light of contemporary events as a remarkable prophecy in the enduring literary form of that new democracy which Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George are writing with pens of flame into the constitution of that greater world-state that is to be.

GEORGE A. WAUCHOPE.

THE METHOD OF HENRY JAMES. By Joseph Warren Beach, Assistant Professor of English, University of Minnesota. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp. 270. 1918.

Can a labor of criticism be a labor of love? This "searching study of the technique of James in its various aspects," answers the question affirmatively. Those intellectually élite souls that wish to study the *finesse* of characterization in the depths of human personality may well seize upon Professor Beach's book as a godsend of a guide! For, though the book is studying James's "method," in James the method is the key to the matter. A few quotations from the early chapters will give those interested in James—and no others are likely to read the book—a